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Migration of Rufous Hummingbirds

Across the highway near Donner Summit numerous Rufous Hummingbirds darted southward on August 8, 1946. The greatest concentration of hummers was observed at a little draw between the Sierra Club Lodge at Norden and Donner Summit, at an elevation of approximately 7075 feet. At this spot the ground was damp and many wild flowers were in bloom. Wild columbine, thistle, penstemon and red Indian paint brushes were the most conspicuous of the wild flowers.

Having fed on the blossoms at the north side of the road, the hummers flew low across the highway to the flowers and willow thickets on the south and lower side of the road. The fact that the vegetation was low, the willows on the south hillside not rising more than a yard or so above the level of the highway, proved to be an unfortunate one indeed. As they dashed down the hillside and across the highway, sometimes flying only 3 feet above the pavement, many of the hummers were intercepted by speeding automobiles.

During a one-mile walk from Norden (7000 ft.) to Donner Summit (7135 ft.) on August 8, 1946, taken by the writer and Miss Alice S. Mulford, fifteen Rufous Hummingbirds were found dead along the highway. All of these were females or immatures as none had the bright gorget of the adult male. All but three were freshly killed. A few other birds were killed by motorists, but the numbers were small compared to those of the hummers. On the same one-mile stretch of highway 3 Fox Sparrows, 1 unidentified warbler and 1 unidentified vireo, as well as one chipmunk, were found.

If the heavy toll extracted by auto traffic here were taken all along the highways in the Sierras, it would be extremely unfortunate for the Rufous Hummingbird population. Apparently, however, the birds were following the crest of the Sierras southward, concentrating in the draws and washes where there was slightly more protection from wind and a greater abundance of wild flowers.

The fact that most of the hummers were freshly killed would seem to

indicate that the mass movement of the females and immatures through this area had just begun. Rufous Hummingbirds were noted in the vicinity of the lodge and at Lake Van Norden on August 6, my first day in the area, as well as on August 7, 8, 10 and 11, but seemed to be more abundant on the eighth.

Rufous Hummingbirds spend the winter in southern Mexico, migrating in early spring through the low lands of California to their northern breeding grounds in Oregon, Washington, Canada and Alaska. It has not been definitely proved that they nest in California. On the return trip south they migrate principally through the mountainous regions, taking advantage of the late blooming wild flowers at the higher elevations. Just as in the spring, the males begin to migrate before the females. Previous field notes include a record of 1 male Rufous hummer at Marla Bay, Lake Tahoe, Nevada, on June 28, 1941. On June 20, 1946 Dr. Robert T. Orr observed a male Rufous Hummingbird just north of Eagle Falls in the Tahoe region. The females and immatures follow several weeks later as indicated by the August dates. These dates compare favorably with those given by Grinnell and Storer for the Yosemite region (J. Grinnell and T. I. Storer, "Animal Life in the Yosemite", 1924).

As attempts at skinning were unsuccessful, one mummified specimen was saved, and is now no. 58634 in the California Academy of Sciences collection.

— Grace Irene Crowe, *California Academy of Sciences*.

Observations

Edited by JUNE W. KELLY

Golden Eagle, immature, July 5, Mt. Diablo; Greater Yellow-legs, July 10, KRE Pond, Berkeley, Calif., Herman V. Leffler.

Library News

Through the courtesy of Miss Alice Mulford, Curator of the Oakland Public Museum, the library of the Audubon Association is now housed at the Oakland Public Museum, 1426 Oak Street, Oakland, California. It is believed that having the library maintained in a public institution will make it more readily accessible for use by the organization. Members are invited to make free use of the library at its new home. The back files of the following publications, received in exchange for *The Gull*, will be found on the shelves:

- Academy News Letter (California Academy of Sciences)
- Annual Reports (Bird Protection Society, Province of Quebec)
- Audubon Magazine (National Audubon Society)
- Audubon Warbler (Oregon Audubon Society)
- Bulletin (Natural History Museum, San Diego, Calif.)
- Canadian Nature (A. R. Whitemore, Toronto)
- Cleveland Bird Calendar (Cleveland Museum of Natural History)
- The Condor (Cooper Ornithological Club)
- The Jack-pine Warbler (Michigan Audubon Society)

Maine Audubon Society Bulletin (Maine Audubon Society)
 Massachusetts Bulletin (Massachusetts Audubon Society)
 Museum Leaflet (The Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History)
 Natural History (The American Museum of Natural History)
 The Oriole (Georgia Ornithological Society)
 Ornithological Publications (Smithsonian Institution)
 Ornithological Publications (United States National Museum)
 The Sanderling (Hastings Reservation)
 The Western Tanager (South Pasadena Audubon Society)
 Wilson Bulletin (University of Michigan)

New Members

We take pleasure in welcoming the following new members: Mr. Thomas A. Corder, Miss Dolores Reed and Mr. Eugene Worthington, Jr.

July Field Trip

Sunday, July 13, produced a rare day for combing San Francisco's rugged coast line from Land's End to the Cliff House. A 7 o'clock "breakfast hour" meeting brought out fewer birders than usual, 13 members and 3 visitors. However, they were hardy souls with plenty of determination and do-or-die spirit when it came to competing with the gulls, guillemots and cliff-clinging vegetation of the outer shore line. All ended safely at Sutro Heights, with a "bag" of 22 species, numbers necessarily small, it seems, in so limited an environment. Perhaps the most interesting were the Pigeon Guillemots and Heermann Gulls, though it was refreshing to turn and see many brave land birds, warblers, finches and sparrows among the rock-dwelling shrubs.

The 22 species observed were:

Double-crested Cormorant	Bush-tit
(Farallon)	Wren-tit
California Quail	Robin
Heermann Gull	Pileolated Warbler
Western Gull	English Sparrow
Pigeon Guillemot	Brewer Blackbird
Anna Hummingbird	House Finch
Allen Hummingbird	Pine Siskin
Red-shafted Flicker	Oregon Junco
Downy Woodpecker	White-crowned Sparrow
Black Phoebe	Song Sparrow
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	

Historian — Ethel E. Richardson.

July Meeting

The 358th meeting of the Audubon Association of the Pacific was held in the Assembly room of the San Francisco Public Library on Thursday, July 10.

The meeting was called to order at 8:10 p. m. by the vice-president, Mr.

Jean M. F. Dubois. It was moved and seconded to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting.

Miss MacIver introduced two new members: Miss Dolores Reed of Berkeley and Mr. Thomas A. Corder of Alameda.

Mr. Herman Leffler gave some bird observations and also mentioned the work he had done to have the water replaced in the KRE pool.

Our speaker for the evening, Mrs. Otis H. Smith, gave us a very interesting talk about "Marin County Bird Trails" and bird banding. She offered to procure two booklets entitled "Exploring Marin" for any members desiring to purchase them. She has been a bird bander for many years and related several interesting incidents. Mrs. Smith told of the requirements a bird bander must meet and of the importance of bird banding.

There were 19 members and 7 guests present. The meeting was adjourned by the vice-president, Mr. Dubois, at 9:00 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Dubois, *Secretary, pro-tem.*

August Meeting

The 359th meeting of the Audubon Association of the Pacific will be held on Thursday, August 14 at 8:00 p. m. Meet in the lecture room of the Oakland Public Museum, 1426 Oak Street, Oakland, Calif. Mrs. Junea W. Kelly, ornithologist, lecturer, and teacher of the course "Six Trips Afield" will be the speaker of the evening. Her topic will be "Shorebirds Here and There".

August Field Trip

The August field trip will be to Ross, Marin County, on Sunday, August 17. Take the Greyhound bus at 7th & Mission Streets, San Francisco, at 8:25 a. m. Meet at Ross at 9:30 a. m. Proceed up the main road to Phoenix Lake and Lake Lagunitas. Leader, Mr. Jean M. F. Dubois. Bring luncheon and binoculars.

Audubon Association of the Pacific

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For the Study and the Protection of Birds

President.....	Dr. T. Eric Reynolds.....	140 Estates Drive, Piedmont 11
Corresponding Secretary.....	Mr. Joseph J. Webb.....	519 California St., San Francisco 4
Treasurer.....	Miss Ivanaer Maciver.....	2414 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley 4
Editor.....	Miss Grace Irene Crowe.....	1420 Henry St., Berkeley 7

Monthly meetings second Thursday, 8:00 p. m.

Assembly Room, San Francisco Public Library, Larkin and McAllister Sts., San Francisco
 Membership dues, payable January 1st. \$3.00 per year

Student memberships, \$1.50 per year

Lie memberships, \$50.00

Subscription, \$1.00 per year